

Clay, however, is ill and likely to leave him, and this is a serious trouble. ' You know that though I like to be at my ease I want energy in those little affairs of which life greatly consists; here I found Clay always ready.' As Clay expressed it to Meredith, Disraeli was one of those people who ' ought never to travel without a nurse.'

To Sarah Disraeli.

CAIRO,

May 28.

I am sorry also to say that his faithful servant Giovanni, better known by the name of Tita (he was Byron's chasseur of renown), who is a Belzoni in appearance and constitution, is also very ill, which is a great affliction. Thus you see the strong men have all fallen, while I, who am an habitual invalid, am firm on my legs; but the reason is this, that I, being somewhat indolent and feeble, live *a la Turque*, while Clay and Giovanni are always in action, have done nothing but shoot and swim from morning to night. As I am on the chapter of domestic troubles, you will hear with regret that my favourite servant, a Greek of Cyprus, gave me warning yesterday, his father being very ill at Alexandria. He leaves me directly, which is a great bore at this moment, especially as I am about to be alone, and would annoy me at all times, because he wore a Mameluke dress of crimson and gold, with a white turban thirty yards long, and a sabre glittering like a rainbow. I must now content myself with an Arab attendant in a blue shirt and slipperless. How are the mighty fallen!

I cannot sufficiently commend your letters; they are in every respect charming, very lively and witty, and full exactly of the stuff I want. If you were only a more perfect mistress of the art of punctuation, you might rival Lady Mary her self. Thank my mother for her remembrance of me. I can not write to say I am quite well, because the enemy still holds out, but I am sanguine, very, and at any rate quite well enough to wish to be at home. I am quite delighted with my father's progress. How long to be with him, dearest of men, flashing our quills together and opening their minds, ' standing together in our chivalry,' which we will do, now that I have got the use of my brain for the first

time in my life. Tell Ralph to write as
often and as much as
he likes, and that I have become a most
accomplished smoker,
carrying that luxurious art to a pitch of
refinement of which